NEW YORK TIMES, OCTOBER 6, 1963, EDITORIAL: "STATE WITHIN A STATE?"

Is the Central Intelligence Agency a state within a state?

President Kennedy's recall of the head of CIA operations in South Vietnam, coming after persistent reports of discord between him and Ambassador Lodge, appears to provide substantive corroboration to the long-vioced charges that our intelligence organization too often tends to "make" ~~XX~~ policy.

The CIA is a large and, on the whole, well-organized intelligence apparatus, which knows and employs the tricks of the trade. But it not only gathers intelligence; it "operates" sabateurs, guerrillas and other paramilitary forces. And its operations--particularly if they are not carefully programmed, controlled and directed--tend willy-nilly to influence policy, if not to make it.

The agency has many extremely able men. But it operates behind the cloak of anonymity and secrecy--and secrecy adds to power. When the same organization collects intelligence and evaluates it, and, at the same time, conducts clandestine operations--and when that organization is as powerful and as well financed as the CIA--there is an inevitable tendednecy for some of its personnel to assume the functions of king-makers.

Communist, imperialism and the exigencies of the nuclear age have brought us eons away--whether we like it or not--from the era of 1929, when Secretary of State Simson closed the nation's only code-breaking organization with the remark that "gentlemen do not read each others mail." Today we must read the other fellow's mail is we want to survive.

But the CIA, like the FBI, has gone too long without adequate Congressional accountability. A Joint Congressional Committee on Intelligence, so long urged but so often frustrated by Congressional pride of place and petty jealousies, should be established to monitor our intelligence services, to safeguard their security and to reduce the dangers ~~XX~~ secret espionage and covert operations ~~XXX~~ present to a free society.